

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for preparing soil for the placement therein of at least one of seed and [fertilizer] additive, said apparatus comprising:

a frame having a front and rear;

first means on the frame for penetrating the soil to create an opening for at least one of seed and [fertilizer] additive as the frame is advanced in a travel direction; and

second means on the frame overlapping the first means in a fore and aft direction and extending rearwardly beyond the first means for at least one of a) stripping soil clods from the first means, and b) loosening soil downstream of the first means,

said second means comprising a first wheel,

there being means for mounting the first wheel to the frame for rotation relative thereto about an axis,

whereby a loosened bed of soil can be defined for receipt of at least one of seed and [fertilizer] additive.

2. (amended) The apparatus for preparing soil according to claim 1 wherein the first means comprises a disk with a central axis and the [first] second means [comprises a coulter] resides substantially entirely rearwardly of the central axis of the disk.

<sup>3</sup>  
~~4.~~ (Twice Amended) The apparatus for preparing soil according to claim 2 wherein the ~~coulter comprises a [wheel] disk~~ and the [wheel] disk is one of a wave and a ripple construction.

4. (Twice Amended) The apparatus for preparing soil according to claim 3 wherein the first means comprises a [first] second wheel having a rotational axis [and the second means comprises a second wheel with], there being third means mounting the second wheel to the frame for rotation about an axis that is non-parallel to a vertical plane containing the rotational axis of the first wheel.

5. (Twice Amended) The apparatus for preparing soil according to claim 1 wherein ~~the second means comprises a~~ <sup>said</sup> ~~[second] wheel with there being~~ <sup>first</sup> means mounting the [second] wheel to the frame <sup>so that</sup> ~~so that~~ the [second] wheel <sup>first</sup> ~~traces~~ <sup>so that it</sup> a path in rotation bounded by a plane that intersects the first means.

Please rewrite claim 9 in independent form as follows:

9. [The] An apparatus for preparing soil [according to claim 8] for the placement therein of at least one of seed and additive, said apparatus comprising:

a frame having a front and rear;

first means on the frame for penetrating the soil to create an opening for at least one of seed and additive as the frame is advanced in a travel direction; and

second means on the frame overlapping the first means in a fore and aft direction and extending rearwardly beyond the first means for at least one of a) stripping soil clods from the first means, and b) loosening soil downstream of the first means,

whereby a loosened bed of soil can be defined for receipt of at least one of seed and additive,

wherein the second means comprises a first wheel with there being means mounting the first wheel to the frame so that the first wheel traces a path in rotation bounded by a plane that intersects the first means,

wherein the first means comprises a second wheel that is rotatable about a horizontal axis,

wherein said second means includes a third wheel with there being means mounting the third wheel to the frame so that the third wheel traces a path in rotation bounded by a plane that intersects the first means,

wherein the [second] first and third wheels comprise toothed wheels and the means mounting the [second] first and third wheels to the frame each mounts the [second] first and third wheels for rotation about axes that are [transverse] angled both with respect to each other and the rotational axis of the [first] second wheel.

21. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for preparing soil for the placement thereon of at least one of seed and [fertilizer] additive, said apparatus comprising:

a frame;

first and second cooperating toothed wheels;

means for mounting the first and second toothed wheels to the frame so that the first and second toothed wheels rotate in first and second vertically extending planes about first and second axes that are [transverse] angled with respect to each other to loosen soil;

means for supporting the frame at a predetermined height relative to subjacent soil supporting the frame; and

means on the frame for continuously defining an open slot in soil loosened by the first and second wheels as the frame is advanced in a travel direction,

said frame supporting means maintaining the frame at a height so that the slot defining means defines a slot having a first depth,

at least one of the first and second wheels penetrating soil to a depth at least equal to said first depth.

23. (Twice Amended) The apparatus for preparing soil according to claim 21 wherein the first and second wheels rotate in first and second planes that cooperatively define a V shape opening both upwardly and in a trailing direction as the frame is travelling.